

Committee on Statutes, Bylaws, and Committees — Meeting Minutes for 10/15/25

Members present:

- Barbara Biesecker (Chair) — Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
- Christina Hanawalt — Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
- Ruth Harman — Mary Frances Early College of Education
- John Brocato — College of Engineering

Members not present:

- Eric Rubenstein — Past Chair of the Executive Committee

Committee Chair Barbara Biesecker called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and updated the Committee on discussions with Elizabeth Weeks on the review of University Statutes.

Old Business:

- The Committee reviewed the University Statutes document and discussed the embedded comments and revisions.
 - Most of these required little attention, though the Committee did discuss the Council's voting ex officio membership composition at the top of page 5 and decided to leave the current language intact.
 - The Committee also discussed "Section 4: Eligibility" on page 10, specifically the statement that "Any faculty member of full or associate professorial rank is eligible for election to the Faculty Advisory Committee." This language apparently predates the current prevalence of non-tenure-track faculty at UGA, and so the Committee decided that, as in other similar locations, the text should reflect the more representative term "Corps of Instruction" and be limited to the top two levels of each rank. This change means also similarly modifying the phrase "faculty with academic rank" in the preceding section, "Section 3: Members."
- The Committee then discussed the Proposed Changes to the UC Bylaws that were reviewed at the previous meeting on September 10, 2025. The Committee decided the following:
 - Revise the language of "MOTION 3: Proposed change to Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair" from "warranted by the character of the work of the committee, including personnel matters" to "the need for institutional memory and knowledge and deep familiarity with university policies" or something similar.
 - Revise the language of "Motion 9: Change to membership and chairship warranted by the character of the work of the committee, oftentimes sensitive matters requiring deep knowledge of institutional rules and norms" (page 4) so that it stops after "character of the work of the committee."
 - Replace "classification of faculty" with "Corps of Instruction" throughout the bylaws.

The Committee then discussed the importance of having some of its members present at upcoming meetings where these items above will be discussed and possibly voted on — namely, the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 3:30, Peabody Boardroom, and the full University Council meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 3:30, Tate Center Theater.

There being no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Minutes prepared by John Brocato.